

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 177267

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: BUDEIRI PROPERTY CLAIMS

REFS: (A) STATE 45429; (B) TEL AVIV 1606

1. FRED BUDEIRI, AMCIT WHOSE CLAIMS AGAINST ISRAEL FOR PROPERTIES TAKEN FROM HIS NON-AMCIT FATHER AFTER 1948 AND 1967 WARS WERE DESCRIBED REF(A) IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV ON 18 JULY FOR TALKS WITH HIS LAWYERS AND FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI ABOUT HIS CLAIMS. BUDEIRI HAS INDICATED HE MAY CONTACT EMBASSY OR CONGEN DURING HIS STAY TO REPORT RESULT OF HIS EFFORTS OR SEEK (UNSPECIFIED) ASSISTANCE.

2. ALTHOUGH, BASED ON OUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE (REFTEL A), WE CANNOT ESPOUSE BUDEIRI'S CLAIM WITH GOI, DEPT REMAINS INTERESTED IN CASE AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY OBTAINING WHATEVER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM BUDEIRI, AND FROM GOI (IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS INQUIRY APPROPRIATE), ABOUT GOI RE-FUSAL TO COMPENSATE. DEPT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN EAST JERUSALEM AND OLD CITY PROPERTIES SEIZED AFTER 1967 AND FOR WHICH, BUDEIRI SAYS, NO COMPENSATION HAS BEEN PAID. LEGAL

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STATUS OF THOSE CLAIMS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW STILL SOME-

WHAT UNCERTAIN, SINCE THEY APPARENTLY CONCERN PROPERTY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY RATHER THAN IN ISRAEL, AND IT WOULD BE

HELPFUL TO US IN DETERMINING THEIR STATUS TO KNOW JUST WHAT ISRAEL HAS DONE WITH THE PROPERTIES (E.G., SEIZED, BLOCKED OWNER'S ASSETS, WHETHER JORDANIAN LAW FOLLOWED).

3. REQUEST ALSO, IF BUDEIRI CONTACTS EMBASSY TO SAY HIS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, AND UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, LOW-KEY APPROACH TO GOI ABOUT EQUITABLE PAYMENT TO BUDEIRI ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO LEGAL RIGHT TO COMPENSATION UNDER ALIEN PROPERTY LAW. BASIS OF APPROACH WOULD BE THAT BUDEIRI HAS BEEN AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ALMOST 30 YEARS AND MONEY PAID IN COMPENSATION WOULD NOT LIKELY FIND ITS WAY TO ARAB COUNTRIES. WE UNDERSTAND OTHER ARAB-AMERICANS SIMILARLY SITUATED HAVE BEEN COMPENSATED ON THIS BASIS. KISSINGER

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